

Guide to War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference Records CMS.026

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Center for Migration Studies
1977-1978

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Arrangement note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Related Materials</u>	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Other Finding Aids note</u>	7
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	8

Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference (U.S.).
Title	War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference Records
Date [inclusive]	1944-1971
Extent	3.0 Linear feet in 6 manuscript boxes.
Language	English
Language of Materials note	This collection is in English.
Abstract	This collection contains the records of the War Relief Services, an agency of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, spanning the years 1944-1971. This material focuses on refugee assistance in the form of relief and resettlement in war-torn areas.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference Department of Immigration Records (CMS 026); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, at the annual meeting of the American Catholic hierarchy, the bishops of the United States organized the War Emergency and Relief Committee to assist war victims in Poland and other devastated regions. In early 1943 the administrative board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) launched the War Relief Services, a comprehensive war relief program, headquartered in New York City. During the remainder of World War II and its immediate aftermath, the War Relief Services and cooperating indigenous agencies brought relief and welfare services to war torn countries in Europe and Asia. The agency was headed by Monsignor Bryan J. McEntegart, then Monsignor Patrick A. O'Boyle, and in 1947 by Monsignor Edward E. Swanstrom.

In 1945, the War Relief Services joined with other Catholic social service agencies and ethnic organization to form the National Catholic Resettlement Council (NCRC), whose task was the elaboration of a national plan for the resettlement of displaced persons in the United States, to be implemented by Diocesan Immigration Councils. The NCRC was instrumental in the orientation and resettlement of Hungarian and Cuban refugees.

In 1955, the War Relief Services changed its name to the Catholic Relief Services. Additional administrators in the War Relief Services were Aloysius J. Wycislo, John f. McCarthy, James J. Norris, and Edmund E. Cummings. The organization was subsumed by the the NCWC in the 1970s.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains the records of the War Relief Services (later Catholic Relief Services) agency of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, from 1944-1971. The collection documents the activities of the agency, especially of its Resettlement Division. The materials within the collection include bulletins, memoranda, newsletters, reports, agenda, clippings, correspondence, minutes, pamphlets, press releases, photographs, speeches, telegrams, notes, programs, and other materials. The collection also holds the annual reports to the Board of Trustees and the minutes of the National Catholic Resettlement Council. This material documents the work of the War Relief Services, which includes resettling refugees in the United States.

The bulk of the material documents Hungarian and Cuban refugee groups, also there are materials on the resettlement of Italians in the United States and on non-Chinese refugees in China, and on the repatriation of East European and Baltic refugees of World War II.

However, the records comprising this collection are not limited to those generated by War Relief Services/Catholic Relief Services. Many materials, especially pamphlets and reports, originated with other organizations but were collected over the course of its activities. The pamphlets subject matter

ranges from immigration legislation, refugees, displaced persons resettlement, americanization, published by a number of institutions including the United HIAS Service, Common Council for American Unity, American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Services, American Jewish Congress, Lutheran Refugees Service, National Conference of Catholic Charities, American Immigration Conference, UN Refugee Fund, International Refugee Organization, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, and others.

Arrangement note

The files in this collection are arranged alphabetically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies 1977-1978

Revision Description

Edited by Nicole Greenhouse for DACS compliance April 2013

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

This collection was transferred to CMS from the Washington headquarters of the United States Conference Division of Migration and Refugee Services.

Processing Information note

This collection was originally processed in 1977-1978. In 2013, This collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit and folder descriptions were simplified from the original print finding aid. (The original finding aid is available in print upon request). Folder titles in the container list online may vary from the the physical folder titles. Physical folder titles either do not exist on the folders or are extremely brief. In each box is a copy of the original container list for the box. The finding aid was also updated for compliance with *Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DAC5)*.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Other collections related to the War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference Records (CMS 026) include:

National Catholic Welfare Conference, Department of Immigration(CMS 023)

The United States Catholic Conference, Department of Immigration Records(CMS 023A)

The United States Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Services Records, New York Office Records (CMS 023B)

United States Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Services, New York Office Records (CMS 023C)

Most Reverend Stephen J. Donahue (CMS 023D)

National Catholic Welfare Conference Department of Immigration, New York Office and Catholic Committee for Refugees Records (CMS 024)

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Subject(s)

- Church work with immigrants |z Catholic Church.
- Church work with refugees |z United States

- World War, 1939-1945 |x Refugees

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

Collection Inventory

	Box
American Council of Voluntary Agencies: Reports on Hungarian Escapees 1957	1
Cuban Refugees: Meetings, National Conference of Resettlement for Cuban Refugees; <i>Ave Maria</i> Magazine article 1961	1
Cuban Refugees: Report to the President of the US on the Cuban Refugee Problem by Tracy Voorhees 1960-1961	1
Cuban Refugees: Survey of Cuban Miami Program by Mr. Cummings 1963	1
Cuban Refugees: DHEW Resettlement Recap, Newsletter 1962-1969	1
Cuban Refugees: National Catholic Resettlement Council Members on Cuban Refugee Program and Edmund E. Cummings Resettlement Division 1960-1964	1
Cuban Refugees: AFL-CIO Cooperation 1961-1962	1
Financial Assistance to Non-Chinese Refugees in China 1955-1956	1
Hard Core: <i>Residual Hard Core</i> , Reports on Displaced Persons in Europe 1950-1952	1
Hickey-Freeman Company (Tailors): Placement of Immigrants 1948-1965	1

Hungarian: Background, Refugee Relief, Cardinal Mindszenty 1956-1957, 1971	1
Metropolitan Area of New York City Tailor-Seamstress, Men's Clothing Industry 1955-1956	1
Miscellaneous: Reports, Speeches, Conference Proceedings on Immigration Law and Refugees 1946-1971	2
Miscellaneous: Correspondence and Clippings 1947-1959	2
National Catholic Resettlement Council: Minutes 1947-1951	2
Newspaper Clippings 1955-1959	2
Newspaper Clippings: Refugee Problems 1954-1958	2
Orientation Booklet: <i>This is Your Country: An Introduction to America and Its People</i> by Reverend Thomas J. Quigley et al; Unpublished Manuscript and Correspondence 1949	3
Pamphlets 1944-1971	3
Presidential Directive to January 1946: On Project for Immigration of Displaced Persons in the American Occupied Zones of Germany and Austria under Truman's Directive 1938-1948	4
Public Law 85-892 1958	4
Public Law 85-892 1958-1960	4

Refugee Relief Act of 1953 1953-1956	4
Section 12 Procedures of Displaced Persons Act of 1948 1949-1951	4
South Carolina Resettlement Project: Contract and Correspondence 1954	4
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration: Forced Repatriation of Baltic and Eastern European World War II Refugees 1946-1954	5
War Relief Services: <i>Field Operations Bulletin</i> 1954-1961	5
War Relief Services: <i>Information Memoranda</i> 1954-1960	5
War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference: Reports to Board of Trustees 1944-1965	6